

ARTICLES ¹⁰

FOR

VISITATION

Concerning certain MATTERS

Ecclesiastical:

EXHIBITED

by the Ministers, Church-wardens and Side-
men of every Parish within the

DIOCESS of ELY.

at the third EPISCOPAL VISITATION

OF THE

Right Reverend Father in God

BENJAMIN

Laney

By Divine Permission

Lord Bishop of ELY.

CAMBRIDGE,

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M. DC. LXXIV.

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The Tenour of the Oath of the Church-
wardens and Sworn-men.

You shall well and truly execute your several
Offices of Church-wardens, and Side-men,
according to the Kings Ecclesiastical Laws.

So help you God and the
Contents of his holy
Gospel.

Articles of Instruction to the Church-
wardens and Side-men, in some more
special matters to direct them in their
Presentments. *Anno Domini 1674.*

TIT. I.

*Concerning Churches, Chappels, with the Ornaments
and Furniture thereunto belonging.*

I S your Parish Church or Chappel in good
and sufficient repair, both for the Roof, *Can. 85.*
Windows, Floor, and Seats?

2 Hath any part of your Church,
Chappel, or Steeple been demolished or
pulled down? what part, and how long
since? or any of the Lead, Timber or
Bells thereunto formerly belonging, any
way imbezelled or sold, and by whom?

3 Is there a decent Font of stone with a cover? and doth the
same stand at or near the nether end of your Church, in such man-
ner as anciently and usually Fonts have stood for the baptizing of *Can. 81.*
children? Doth the Minister baptize publickly onely with water
poured into the said Font, without the use of a basin? Is there a
decent Communion-table in your Chancel, with a decent Carpet, *82.*
and another covering of white Linen, to be spread thereon at the
time of the Administration of the Lords Supper? and have you a
fair Chalice and Communion cup, with a Cover, and one or more
Flagons? have they been profaned by common use?

4 Have you a convenient Seat or Pew wherein to read Divine
Service; a Pulpit with a decent Cloth or Cushion? a large Bible of
the last Translation, and a Book of Common-prayer lately pub-
lished, *Anno 1662.* the Book of Homilies set forth by Authority, *Stat.*
and a Printed Table of the degrees wherein Marriages are prohib-
ited, and a Book of Canons and Constitutions Ecclesiastical, and a
Decent Surplice and Hood? *20.*
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83.
80.
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58.

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5 Have

87.
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52.

5 Have ye a Register-book in Parchment of Christenings, Burials, and Marriages? and is the same kept in all points according to the ancient use?

70.

6 Have you a Book of Paper, to record the names and Licenses of such Strangers as are admitted to Preach in your Church or Chappel? and do such Strangers subscribe their Names in the same? As also a third Book for the Church-wardens Accounts? as also a Chest with Locks and keys, wherein to keep the said Books, and the aforementioned Furniture?

7 Hath any in your Parish defaced or caused to be defaced any Monuments or Ornaments in your Church, Chappel or Chancel, or erected any new Pews or Monuments therein without License from the Ordinary?

TIT. II.

Concerning the Church-yard, the Houses, Glebes and Tythes belonging to the Church.

1 **I**S your Church-yard sufficiently fenced, and decently kept? Hath any person encroached upon the same, or made any door into it? and how long since?

2 Is the House of your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, and the Out-houses in good repair? have any of them been defaced or pulled down without License? have there been any encroachments made upon the same, or any of the ancient marks or bounds removed or changed? and by whom?

C. 87. 3 Have you a true and perfect Terrier of all the Glebe-lands, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements or Cottages belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage? as also a note of such Pensions, Rate-tythes, and portions of Tythes, or other yearly profits (either within or without your Parish) as belong thereunto? Have any of the same been withheld from your Minister? and by whom, as you know, or have heard?

TIT. III.

Concerning Ministers.

1 **I**S your Minister a Priest or Deacon, Episcopally ordained, according to the Laws of the Church of *England*?

2 Hath he been legally instituted and inducted into his Benefice? And did he within two moneths after his induction, publicly in the Church upon some Sunday or Holiday, in the time of

Divine

Articles of Visitation.

3

Divine Service, read the 39 Articles of the Church of England, established by Authority, and there publickly declare his assent thereunto?

3 Is he resident among you? how many weeks hath he been absent from you without urgent necessity?

4 Hath your Minister a Curate? Is he in holy Orders, and conformable to the Laws of the Church? Is he allowed by the Ordinary? *Can. 47.*

5 Doth your Parson, Vicar, Curate, or Lecturer, if you have any, perform his Office in all things according to the Rubrick of the Book of Common-Prayer lately established, and the Act of Uniformity published therewith, without either diminishing in regard of Preaching or in any other respect, or adding any thing in the Matter or Form?

14.

6 Doth your Minister at the Reading Divine Service, wear a Surplice and Hood? *58.*

7 Doth he observe the Holidays and Fasting-days, the Ember-weeks, and the yearly perambulation of Rogation-week, as is appointed by the Rubrick?

8 Is your Minister licensed to Preach? if so, doth he constantly (not having a reasonable impediment) preach one Sermon in your Church or Chappel every Sunday? or if he be not licensed, or be hindered, doth he procure one to supply his Office by Preaching or Reading one of the Homilies? *45, 46, 47.*

9 Doth your Minister instruct the youth in your Parish in the Church Catechism, and prepare and present them to be confirmed by the Bishop? *Can. 56. Rubr. before Con-*

10 Doth he neglect or delay to visit the Sick, or to Baptize any Infant that is in danger of death? Doth he baptize any without Godfathers and Godmothers, or admit either of the Parents to be Godfather or Godmother to their own Children? *firm. 67. 69.*

11 Hath your Minister married any Persons in private houses, or such as being under the age of 21 years, have not the consent of their Parents, or without the Banns first published on three several Sundays or Holidays in your Church, or at any other hours then between 8 and 12 in the forenoon, unless he had a License or Dispensation granted by Archepiscopal or Episcopal Authority so to do? name who were the Parties so married, and who were present at such marriages, and what Minister married them, as far as you know or have heard? *62. 101.*

12 Hath your Minister taken upon him to appoint any publick

71.

73. or private Fasts, prophesyings or Exercises not appointed by Authority? Or doth he, or any other, either Minister or Lay-person hold any Conventicles or Meetings in private houses within your Parish, for people of several families to resort unto, under the pretence of Preaching, Praying, Thanksgiving or Humiliation, contrary to the Laws and Canons in that case provided?

75. 13 Is your Parson, Vicar, Curate or Lecturer, a man of a sober life and conversation? or is his carriage in any kind disorderly or scandalous, and unbecoming a Minister?

14 Hath the Sacrament of the Lords Supper been duly Administred in your Church or Chappel so often, and at such convenient times, that at least thrice every year, (whereof once at *Easter*) every Parishioner within your Parish, being of the age of sixteen years or upwards, might receive the same?

15 Hath any Child been Baptized within your Parish in any private House, (except upon great necessity; and if so what was the same?) or by any Lay-person, or Midwife, or Popish Priest, or by any other then your own Minister? and hath such Child *Rubr. of* which was privately baptized, if he lived, been afterwards brought *private* to your Church, that the Congregation and the Minister of the Pa- *Bapt.* rish (in case such Child was not Baptized by him) might be certified whether such Child was lawfully Baptized, or no?

Ratified. 16 Doth your Minister publickly in your Parish Church or Chap- *Can.* pel, once every year, read over the Constitutions and Canons Ecclesiastical, agreed upon by the Clergy of both Provinces *An. Dom.* 1603. in such manner as is commanded to be done?

C. 65. 17 Doth your Minister every six moneths in your Parish Church, openly in the time of Divine Service, upon some Sunday denounce and declare Excommunicate by name, all such of your Parish as do persevere in the sentence of Excommunication, not seeking to be absolved?

18 Hath your Minister said Divine Service while any Excommunicate person hath been present in the Church? or hath he delayed to denounce any Excommunication, Suspension, or Absolution that hath been sent unto him from his Ordinary, further then the next Sunday or Holiday after the receipt thereof under Seal?

Rubr. after 19 Doth your Minister, upon Sundays at Morning Prayer de- *Nic. Creed.* clare unto the Parishioners, what Fasting days and Holidays are to be kept the week following?

C. 64. 20 Hath any strange Minister been admitted to preach in your *C. 50.* Church,

Articles of Visitation.

5

Church, who did not before the Church-wardens subscribe his name in your book provided for that purpose, and the day when he Preached, and the name of the Bishop or Bishops of whom he had License to Preach?

52.

21 Doth your Minister publickly read over the thirty nine Articles unto the people twice every year, to the end that they may the better understand the same, and be made more thoroughly acquainted with the Doctrine and Discipline of the Church of *England*, and not so easily drawn away from the same, as formerly they have been?

22 Doth your Minister in the presence of you the Church-wardens, write and record in your Register Book, the names of all Persons christned, together with the names and surnames of their Parents; and also the names of all Persons married and buried within your Parish from time to time, and the day, and the year of every such christning, marriage, and burial? Doth he subscribe his own name, and the Church-wardens theirs, to every Page of that being filled with inscriptions?

70.

TIT. IV.

Concerning the Parishioners.

1 Is there any in your Parish that makes profession of any other religion then what is established in the Church of *England*? Doth any reproach the same religion, or seduce others from it, or endeavour to alienate the hearts of the people from their loyalty and obedience to the King? Do any absent themselves from the publick assemblies of the Church, or that come not in due time as well to Service as Sermons? If there be any, what are their names?

Act for Uniformity.
1 Q. Eliz.

2 Is there any person in your Parish, that lieth under a common fame, or suspicion of Adultery, Fornication, or Incest? Are there any common Drunkards within your Parish, or common Swearers, or Blasphemers of Gods name, or any that are noted to be Railers, unclean or filthy Talkers, or sowers of Sedition, Faction, and discord amongst their Neighbours?

C. 109.

3 Do any of your Parish upon Sundays or Holidays follow their bodily and ordinary labour, or permit their servants so to do? Are any Shops kept open, or wares sold? or do any Vintners, Innkeepers, or other Victuallers or sellers of Beer or Ale, suffer any persons to tipple or game in their houses upon those days?

4 Doth every person in your Parish duly resort to your Church

CAN. 13.
or

18. or Chappel upon Sundays and Holy-days, and as well during Divine Service, as preaching the Word of God, demean themselves reverently, uncovering their Heads, Kneeling at Prayers, standing up when the Creed and Gospel are read?

Rubr. of Bapt. 5 Is there any in your Parish that refuse to send their Infant-children to be Baptized in the Church, unless in case of urgent danger? or do they send them to be Baptized in other Parishes? or are they Baptized after other form then is appointed? or are they kept Unbaptized longer then is allowed? or is there any Infants, or more aged persons as yet Unbaptized?

112. 6 Is there any person in your Parish of 16 years of age who doth not receive the Sacrament three times in the year, of which *Easter* is always to be one? Doth any refuse to receive it kneeling, or resort to other Parishes? or do any strangers come to your Parish-Church to receive it?

Rubr. after Commun. 27, 29. 7 Are there any in your Parish that be Denounced and declared Excommunicate for any crime committed? How long have they been so excommunicated? and do any of your Parish keep society with them before they be reconciled to the Church, and absolved?

Expressed in a table set forth by Authority. Anno Dom. 1563. 8 Are there any living in your Parish who have been married contrary to the laws of God and the Church? or any that being lawfully Divorced have married again? or any that being lawfully married, and not Separated or Divorced by course of Law, do not cohabit together?

99. 9 Are there any married Women within your Parish who after 107. their Delivery from the Peril of Child-birth, refuse to make their publick thanksgiving to God in the Church? And when they come so to do, do they come decently Apparelled, and make their offerings according to Custom?

Rubr. Can. 85. 10 Are there any that refuse to pay their duty for *Easter* offerings, or refuse to contribute to the Rates made for the repair of your Church or Chappel, or any thing thereunto belonging?

Rubr. b. 11 Do any refuse to bury their dead according to the Rites of the Church of *England*? and are there any Wills or Testaments of persons dead in your Parish, that be yet unproved? or any goods administered without a due grant from the Ordinary? did any dying in your Parish, or elsewhere, leave any Legacy to your Church or Chappel, or to the use of the poor, or to any other pious and charitable purposes? What were those Legacies, and how have they been bestowed?

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7

12 Is there any Strife and Contention among any of your Parish for their Pews or seats in your Church? Have any new Pews been erected in your Chancel, or in the body of your Church or Chappel, without leave from the Ordinary?

13 Do all, and every householder of your Parish, Fathers, Masters, Mothers, and Mistresses, cause their Children, Servants and Apprentices, which have not learn'd their Catechism, to come unto Church on Sundays and Holidays in the afternoon, obediently to hear, and to be ordered by the Minister till they have learned the same? *Can. 59.*

14 Do such as intend to be partakers at the holy Communion signify their names to the Curate, at least some time the day before as is appointed by the Rubrick? *Rubr. before the Commun.*

TIT. V.

Concerning Parish-Clerks, and Sextons.

1 Have you belonging to your Church or Chappel a Parish-Clerk, aged 21 years at the least? Is he of honest life and conversation? and sufficient or able to perform his duty in Reading, Writing and Singing? Is he chosen by your Minister, and doth he duly attend him in all Divine Services at the Church? are his Wages duly paid unto him? or who withholdeth the same from him? *Can. 91.*

2 Doth he diligently do his duty in keeping the Church clean and decent, in tolling and ringing the Bells before Divine Service, and when any person is passing out of this life, doth he upon notice, toll a Bell, that the neighbours may thereby be warned to recommend the dying person to the grace and mercy of God?

TIT. VI.

Concerning School-masters, Schools, Physicians, Chirurgeons and Midwives.

1 Doth any man keep a publick or private School in your Parish, who is not allowed thereunto by his Ordinary? Doth he teach his Scholars the Catechism of Religion set forth by Authority? Doth he cause his Scholars upon Sundays and Holidays orderly to repair to your Church or Chappel, and see that they behave themselves quietly and reverently during the time of Divine Service and Sermon? *Can. 77. 79.*

2 Doth

2 Doth any in your Parish practise Physick and Chirurgery, or any woman take upon her to exercise the office of Midwife, without License from the Ordinary?

TIT. VII.

Concerning Church-wardens and Side-men.

Can. 89. 1 **A**Re the Church-Wardens of your Parish yearly and chosen, by the joynt consent of your Minister and Parishioners, or one of them by your Minister, and the other by Parishioners?

2 Have the former and last Church-Wardens given up their accounts to the Parish, and delivered up to the succeeding Church-Wardens, the Monies remaining in their hands, together with other things belonging to your Church or Chappel?

*Rubr. as
Commun.*

3 You are further to understand, That according to your Ordinance you are to provide against every Communion appointed in your Church or Chappel, a sufficient quantity of fine White Bread, and of good Wine, according to the number of Communicants.

*Rubr. as
Commun.*

4 Have you a decent basin provided by the Parish, where to receive the Alms for the poor, and other devotions of the people at the administration of the Lords Supper, and are they then specially collected by you the Church-wardens, or some other fit person for that purpose?

You also are to exhibit a Bill of Presentments to this Court, of all Ecclesiastical offences committed by any that now is, or was inhabiting within your Parish; especially concerning the matters mentioned in the precedent Articles, and therein to take the assistance of your Minister.

F I N I S.